

REMARKS

In the present Office Action the disclosure was objected to for informalities; Claims 63 and 70-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Benjey et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,085,771); Claims 51-62, 66-69 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention; Claims 64-65 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claims 1-50 were indicated as being allowed.

Also in the Office Action, the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS) filed by Applicant on February 25, 2004, allegedly contained no PTO-1449 form of record. For the Examiner's consideration, copies of the Applicant's February 25, 2004, SIDS and related forms including form PTO-1449 are attached herewith including a copy of the return receipt postcard stamped by OIPE on February 27, 2004. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the SIDS was timely filed and no fee is required with this submission. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry and consideration of the SIDS and consideration of its cited references on their merits. If the Office determines that a fee is required, Applicant hereby authorizes any required fees to be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has suitably amended page 3 of the Specification as indicated herein. Applicant respectfully submits that the addition adds no new matter and respectfully requests entry and consideration of the amended Specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 63 and 70-71 are not anticipated by Benjey '771. Claim 63, for instance, has been amended to essentially claim the subject matter of allowable Claim 64, now cancelled. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection and allowance of Claim 63. Applicant further respectfully requests allowance of Claims 65-71 dependent on Claim 63, Claims 66 and 71 having been amended to address their rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, discussed below.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's attention to detail with respect to the rejections of Claims 51-62, 66-69 and 71 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2. As indicated herein, Applicant has suitably amended these claims to address typographical errors and dependency and antecedent basis problems. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments are merely administrative in nature and not narrowing amendments. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 51-62, 66-69 and 71.

Applicant respectfully submits that new Claim 72 essentially claims the subject matter of Claim 65 and adds no new matter requiring a new search by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 72 is patentable over the cited references and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate its allowability.

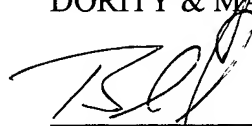
Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment raises no new issues requiring an additional search by the Examiner and responds directly to matters raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the Amendment and indicate the allowability of Claims 51-63 and 65-72, Claims 1-50 having already been allowed.

If the Examiner has any questions upon consideration of this Amendment,
Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at his convenience at the
number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit
Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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